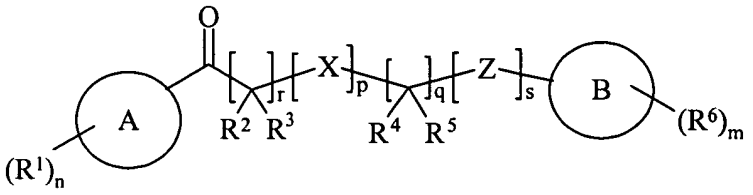
Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

1. (Currently Amended) A method for inhibiting 11βHSD1, comprising administering a compound of formula **(I)**:



(I)

wherein:

Ring A is selected from aryl or heteroaryl;

R^1 is selected from halo, nitro, cyano, hydroxy, amino, carboxy, carbamoyl, mercapto, sulphamoyl, C_{1-6}alkyl, C_{2-6}alkenyl, C_{2-6}alkynyl, C_{1-6}alkoxy, C_{1-6}alkanoyl, C_{1-6}alkanoyloxy, *N*-(C_{1-6}alkyl)amino, *N,N*-(C_{1-6}alkyl)$_2$amino, C_{1-6}alkanoylamino, *N*-(C_{1-6}alkyl)carbamoyl, *N,N*-(C_{1-6}alkyl)$_2$carbamoyl, C_{1-6}alkylS(O)$_a$ wherein a is 0 to 2, C_{1-6}alkoxycarbonyl, *N*-(C_{1-6}alkyl)sulphamoyl, *N,N*-(C_{1-6}alkyl)$_2$sulphamoyl, C_{1-6}alkylsulphonylamino, carbocyclyl, heterocyclyl, carbocyclylC_{0-6}alkylene-Y-, and heterocyclylC_{0-6}alkylene-Y-; or
two R^1 groups on adjacent carbons may form an oxyC_{1-4}alkoxy group or a C_{3-5}alkylene group; wherein R^1 may be optionally substituted on carbon ~~by~~ with one or more R^7 groups ~~selected from R^7~~; and wherein if said heterocyclyl contains an -NH- moiety, that nitrogen may be optionally substituted ~~by~~ with an R^8 group ~~selected from R^8~~;

n is 0-3; wherein the values of R^1 may be the same or different;

R^2, **R^3**, **R^4**, and **R^5** are independently selected from hydrogen, hydroxy, amino, cyano, C_{1-4}alkyl, C_{1-4}alkoxy, *N*-(C_{1-4}alkyl)amino, *N,N*-(C_{1-4}alkyl)$_2$amino, C_{1-4}alkylS(O)$_a$ wherein a is 0 to 2, C_{1-4}alkoxycarbonyl, C_{1-4}alkoxycarbonylamino, C_{1-4}alkanoyloxy, carbocyclyl, heterocyclyl, carbocyclylC_{1-4}alkyl, and heterocyclylC_{1-4}alkyl; or
R^2 and R^3 together form oxo or a spiro attached heterocyclyl; wherein R^2, R^3, R^4, and R^5 may be independently optionally substituted on carbon ~~by~~ with one or more R^9 groups ~~selected from R^9~~; and wherein if said heterocyclyl contains an -NH- moiety, that nitrogen may be optionally substituted ~~by~~ with an R^{10} group ~~selected from R^{10}~~;

X and **Z** are independently selected from $-CR^{11}R^{12}-$, $-S(O)_a-$, -O-, $-NR^{13}-$, -C(O)-, $-C(O)NR^{14}-$, $-NR^{15}C(O)-$, -OC(O)-, -C(O)O-, $-SO_2NR^{16}-$, ~~or~~ and $-NR^{16}SO_2-$; wherein a is 0 to 2;

r is 1 or 2;

q is 0 or 1;

p is 0 or 1;

s is 0 or 1;

Ring B is carbocyclyl or heterocyclyl; wherein if said heterocyclyl contains an -NH- moiety, that nitrogen may be optionally substituted by an R^{17} group ~~selected from R^{17}~~;

$\mathbf{R^6}$ is a substituent on carbon and is selected from halo, nitro, cyano, hydroxy, amino, carboxy, carbamoyl, mercapto, sulphamoyl, trifluoromethyl, trifluoromethoxy, C_{1-4}alkyl, C_{2-4}alkenyl, C_{2-4}alkynyl, C_{1-4}alkoxy, C_{1-4}alkanoyl, C_{1-4}alkanoyloxy, *N*-(C_{1-4}alkyl)amino, *N,N*-(C_{1-4}alkyl)$_2$amino, C_{1-4}alkanoylamino, *N*-(C_{1-4}alkyl)carbamoyl, *N,N*-(C_{1-4}alkyl)$_2$carbamoyl, C_{1-4}alkyl$S(O)_a$ wherein a is 0 to 2, C_{1-4}alkoxycarbonyl, *N*-(C_{1-4}alkyl)sulphamoyl, *N,N*-(C_{1-4}alkyl)$_2$sulphamoyl, C_{1-4}alkylsulphonylamino, carbocyclyl, heterocyclyl, carbocyclylC_{0-4}alkylene-Y-, and heterocyclylC_{0-4}alkylene-Y-; wherein R^6 may be optionally substituted on carbon ~~by~~ with one or more R^{18} groups ~~selected from R^{18}~~; and wherein if said heterocyclyl contains an -NH- moiety, that nitrogen may be optionally substituted ~~by~~ with an R^{19} group ~~selected from R^{19}~~;

m is 0-3; wherein the values of R^6 may be the same or different;

Y is $-S(O)_a-$, -O-, $-NR^{20}-$, -C(O)-, $-C(O)NR^{21}-$, $-NR^{22}C(O)-$, or $-SO_2NR^{23}-$; wherein a is 0 to 2;

$\mathbf{R^7}$, $\mathbf{R^9}$, and $\mathbf{R^{18}}$ are independently selected from halo, nitro, cyano, hydroxy, amino, carboxy, carbamoyl, mercapto, sulphamoyl, trifluoromethyl, trifluoromethoxy, C_{1-4}alkyl, C_{2-4}alkenyl, C_{2-4}alkynyl, C_{1-4}alkoxy, C_{1-4}alkanoyl, C_{1-4}alkanoyloxy, *N*-(C_{1-4}alkyl)amino, *N,N*-(C_{1-4}alkyl)$_2$amino, C_{1-4}alkanoylamino, *N*-(C_{1-4}alkyl)carbamoyl, *N,N*-(C_{1-4}alkyl)$_2$carbamoyl, C_{1-4}alkyl$S(O)_a$ wherein a is 0 to 2, C_{1-4}alkoxycarbonyl, *N*-(C_{1-4}alkyl)sulphamoyl, *N,N*-(C_{1-4}alkyl)$_2$sulphamoyl, C_{1-4}alkylsulphonylamino, carbocyclyl, and heterocyclyl; wherein R^7, R^9, and R^{18} may be independently optionally substituted on carbon ~~by~~ with one or more R^{26} groups;

$\mathbf{R^{11}}$ and $\mathbf{R^{12}}$ are independently selected from hydrogen, hydroxy, amino, cyano, C_{1-4}alkyl, C_{1-4}alkoxy, *N*-(C_{1-4}alkyl)amino, *N,N*-(C_{1-4}alkyl)$_2$amino, carbocyclyl, heterocyclyl, carbocyclylC_{1-4}alkyl, and heterocyclylC_{1-4}alkyl; wherein R^{11} and R^{12} may be independently

optionally substituted on carbon ~~by~~ with one or more R^{24} groups ~~selected from R^{24}~~; and wherein if said heterocyclyl contains an -NH- moiety, that nitrogen may be optionally substituted ~~by~~ with an R^{25} group ~~selected from R^{25}~~;

R^{24} is selected from halo, nitro, cyano, hydroxy, amino, carboxy, carbamoyl, mercapto, sulphamoyl, trifluoromethyl, trifluoromethoxy, C_{1-4}alkyl, C_{2-4}alkenyl, C_{2-4}alkynyl, C_{1-4}alkoxy, C_{1-4}alkanoyl, C_{1-4}alkanoyloxy, *N*-(C_{1-4}alkyl)amino, *N,N*-(C_{1-4}alkyl)$_2$amino, C_{1-4}alkanoylamino, *N*-(C_{1-4}alkyl)carbamoyl, *N,N*-(C_{1-4}alkyl)$_2$carbamoyl, C_{1-4}alkylS(O)$_a$ wherein a is 0 to 2, C_{1-4}alkoxycarbonyl, *N*-(C_{1-4}alkyl)sulphamoyl, *N,N*-(C_{1-4}alkyl)$_2$sulphamoyl, and C_{1-4}alkylsulphonylamino;

R^8, **R^{10}**, **R^{17}**, **R^{19}**, and **R^{25}** are independently selected from C_{1-4}alkyl, C_{1-4}alkanoyl, C_{1-4}alkylsulphonyl, C_{1-4}alkoxycarbonyl, carbamoyl, *N*-(C_{1-4}alkyl)carbamoyl, *N,N*-(C_{1-4}alkyl)carbamoyl, benzyl, benzyloxycarbonyl, benzoyl, carbocyclyl, heterocyclyl, and phenylsulphonyl; wherein R^8, R^{10}, R^{17}, R^{19}, and R^{25} may be independently optionally substituted on carbon ~~by~~ with one or more R^{27} groups;

R^{13}, **R^{14}**, **R^{15}**, **R^{16}**, **R^{20}**, **R^{21}**, **R^{22}**, and **R^{23}** are independently selected from hydrogen, phenyl, C_{1-4}alkylsulphonyl, and C_{1-4}alkyl;

R^{26} and **R^{27}** are independently selected from selected from halo, nitro, cyano, hydroxy, trifluoromethoxy, trifluoromethyl, amino, carboxy, carbamoyl, mercapto, sulphamoyl, methyl, ethyl, methoxy, ethoxy, acetyl, acetoxy, methylamino, ethylamino, dimethylamino, diethylamino, *N*-methyl-*N*-ethylamino, acetylamino, *N*-methylcarbamoyl, *N*-ethylcarbamoyl, *N,N*-dimethylcarbamoyl, *N,N*-diethylcarbamoyl, *N*-methyl-*N*-ethylcarbamoyl, methylthio, ethylthio, methylsulphinyl, ethylsulphinyl, mesyl, ethylsulphonyl, methoxycarbonyl, ethoxycarbonyl, *N*-methylsulphamoyl, *N*-ethylsulphamoyl, *N,N*-dimethylsulphamoyl, *N,N*-diethylsulphamoyl, and ~~or~~ *N*-methyl-*N*-ethylsulphamoyl;
or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof;
~~in the manufacture of a medicament for use in the inhibition of 11βHSD1;~~
with the proviso that said compound is not (1-methyl-1-pyrid-3-ylethyl)-(pyrid-3-yl)-ketone.

2. (Currently Amended) The method ~~use of a compound, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, as claimed in~~ of claim 1, wherein Ring A is selected from phenyl, naphthyl, thienyl, furyl, thiazolyl, pyridyl, imidazolyl, benzothiazolyl, and ~~or~~ benzothienyl.

3. (Currently Amended) The method~~use of a compound, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, as claimed in either~~ of claim 1~~, or claim 2~~ wherein R^1 is selected from halo, cyano, hydroxy, C_{1-6}alkyl, C_{1-6}alkoxy, *N,N*-(C_{1-6}alkyl)$_2$amino, C_{1-6}alkylsulphonylamino, carbocyclyl, and heterocyclylC_{0-6}alkylene-Y-; or two R^1 groups on adjacent carbons may form an oxyC_{1-4}alkoxy group; wherein R^1 may be optionally substituted on carbon ~~by~~ with one or more R^7 groups~~ selected from R^7~~;

Y is -S(O)$_a$-, or-O-; wherein a is 0 to 2; and

R^7 is halo.

4. (Currently Amended) The method~~use of a compound, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, as claimed in any one~~ of claims 1~~,~~[[-3]] wherein R^2, R^3, R^4~~,~~ and R^5 are independently selected from hydrogen, hydroxy, C_{1-4}alkyl, C_{1-4}alkoxy, *N*-(C_{1-4}alkyl)amino, carbocyclyl, carbocyclylC_{1-4}alkyl~~,~~ and heterocyclylC_{1-4}alkyl; wherein R^2, R^3, R^4~~,~~ and R^5 may be independently optionally substituted on carbon ~~by~~ with one or more R^9 groups~~ selected from R^9~~; and~~wherein~~

R^9 is selected from halo, cyano, C_{1-4}alkyl~~,~~ and *N,N*-(C_{1-4}alkyl)$_2$amino.

5. (Currently Amended) The method~~use of a compound, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, as claimed in any one~~ of claims 1~~,~~[[-6]] wherein X is -S(O)$_a$-, -O-, -NR^{13}-, -NR^{15}C(O)-, -SO$_2$NR^{16}-~~,~~ or -NR^{16}SO$_2$-; wherein a is 0 or 2; and

R^{13}, R^{15}~~,~~ and R^{16} are independently selected from hydrogen, phenyl, C_{1-4}alkylsulphonyl~~,~~ and C_{1-4}alkyl.

6. (Currently Amended) The method~~use of a compound, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, as claimed in any one~~ of claims 1~~,~~[[-5]] wherein Ring B is phenyl, thienyl, furyl, thiazolyl, piperidinyl, piperazinyl, pyrrolidinyl, 1,3-dihydroisoindolyl, morpholinyl, naphthyl, cyclohexyl, pyridyl, imidazolyl, 1,2,4-triazolyl, 1,3-benzodioxolyl, thiomorpholinyl, pyrimidinyl, pyrazinyl, pyridazinyl, benzimidazolyl~~,~~ or pyrimidinyl; wherein if Ring B contains an -NH- moiety, that nitrogen may be optionally substituted ~~by~~ with an R^{17} group~~ selected from R^{17}~~;

R^{17} is C_{1-4}alkyl or benzyl; wherein R^{17} may be optionally substituted on carbon ~~by~~ with one or more R^{27} groups; ~~wherein~~and

R^{27} is methoxy.

7. (Currently Amended) The method~~use of a compound, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, as claimed in any one~~ of claims 1,[[-6]] wherein R^6 is a substituent on carbon and is selected from halo, hydroxy, nitro, cyano, carbamoyl, C_{1-4}alkyl, C_{1-4}alkoxy, C_{1-4}alkanoyl, *N,N*-(C_{1-4}alkyl)$_2$amino, C_{1-4}alkanoylamino, *N*-(C_{1-4}alkyl)carbamoyl, *N,N*-(C_{1-4}alkyl)$_2$carbamoyl, C_{1-4}alkylS(O)$_a$ wherein a is 0 or 2, C_{1-4}alkoxycarbonyl, *N,N*-(C_{1-4}alkyl)$_2$sulphamoyl, carbocyclyl, heterocyclyl, and carbocyclylC_{0-4}alkylene-Y-; wherein R^6 may be optionally substituted on carbon ~~by~~ with one or more R^{18} groups~~selected from R^{18}~~; and wherein if said heterocyclyl contains an -NH- moiety, that nitrogen may be optionally substituted ~~by~~ with an R^{19} group ~~selected from R^{19}~~;

Y is -C(O) or -C(O)NR^{21}-;

R^{18} is selected from halo, cyano, hydroxy, C_{1-4}alkoxy, and heterocyclyl;

R^{19} is heterocyclyl; and

R^{21} is hydrogen.

8. (Currently Amended) The method~~use of a compound of formula (I) (as depicted in~~ claim 1,[[)]] wherein:

Ring A is selected from phenyl, naphthyl, thienyl, furyl, thiazolyl, pyridyl, imidazolyl, benzothiazolyl, and ~~or~~ benzothienyl;

R^1 is selected from halo, cyano, hydroxy, C_{1-6}alkyl, C_{1-6}alkoxy, *N,N*-(C_{1-6}alkyl)$_2$amino, C_{1-6}alkylsulphonylamino, carbocyclyl, and heterocyclylC_{0-6}alkylene-Y-; or two R^1 groups on adjacent carbons may form an oxyC_{1-4}alkoxy group; wherein R^1 may be optionally substituted on carbon ~~by~~ with one or more R^7 groups~~selected from R^7~~;

Y is -S(O)$_a$-, or-O-; wherein a is 0 to 2; and

R^7 is halo[[.]];

n is 0-3; wherein the values of R^1 may be the same or different;

r is 1 or 2;

s is 0;

R^2, R^3, R^4, and R^5 are independently selected from hydrogen, hydroxy, C_{1-4}alkyl, C_{1-4}alkoxy, *N*-(C_{1-4}alkyl)amino, carbocyclyl, carbocyclylC_{1-4}alkyl, and heterocyclylC_{1-4}alkyl;

wherein R^2, R^3, R^4, and R^5 may be independently optionally substituted on carbon ~~by~~ with one or more R^9 groups ~~selected from R^9~~; ~~wherein~~

R^9 is selected from halo, cyano, C_{1-4}alkyl, and *N,N*-(C_{1-4}alkyl)$_2$amino[[.]];

X is -S(O)$_a$-, -O-, -NR^{13}-, -NR^{15}C(O)-, -SO_2NR^{16}-, or -$NR^{16}SO_2$-; wherein a is 0 or 2; ~~and~~

R^{13}, R^{15}, and R^{16} are independently selected from hydrogen, phenyl, C_{1-4}alkylsulphonyl, and C_{1-4}alkyl;

q is 0 or 1;

p is 0 or 1;

Ring B is phenyl, thienyl, furyl, thiazolyl, piperidinyl, piperazinyl, pyrrolidinyl, 1,3-dihydroisoindolyl, morpholinyl, naphthyl, cyclohexyl, pyridyl, imidazolyl, 1,2,4-triazolyl, 1,3-benzodioxolyl, thiomorpholinyl, pyrimidinyl, pyrazinyl, pyridazinyl, benzimidazolyl, or pyrimidinyl; wherein if Ring B contains an -NH- moiety, that nitrogen may be optionally substituted by a group selected from R^{17};

R^{17} is C_{1-4}alkyl or benzyl; wherein R^{17} may be optionally substituted on carbon ~~by~~ with one or more R^{27} groups; ~~wherein~~

R^{27} is methoxy;

R^6 is a substituent on carbon and is selected from halo, hydroxy, nitro, cyano, carbamoyl, C_{1-4}alkyl, C_{1-4}alkoxy, C_{1-4}alkanoyl, *N,N*-(C_{1-4}alkyl)$_2$amino, C_{1-4}alkanoylamino, *N*-(C_{1-4}alkyl)carbamoyl, *N,N*-(C_{1-4}alkyl)$_2$carbamoyl, C_{1-4}alkylS(O)$_a$ wherein a is 0 or 2, C_{1-4}alkoxycarbonyl, *N,N*-(C_{1-4}alkyl)$_2$sulphamoyl, carbocyclyl, heterocyclyl, and carbocyclylC_{0-4}alkylene-Y-; wherein R^6 may be optionally substituted on carbon ~~by~~ with one or more R^{18} groups ~~selected from R^{18}~~; and wherein if said heterocyclyl contains an -NH- moiety, that nitrogen may be optionally substituted ~~by~~ with an R^{19} group ~~selected from R^{19}~~;

Y is -C(O) or -C(O)NR^{21}-;

R^{18} is selected from halo, cyano, hydroxy, C_{1-4}alkoxy, and heterocyclyl;

R^{19} is heterocyclyl; ~~and~~

R^{21} is hydrogen; and

m is 0-3; wherein the values of R^6 may be the same or different[[;]]

~~or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof;~~

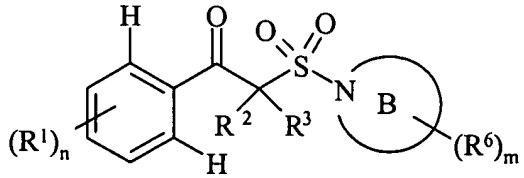
~~in the manufacture of a medicament for use in the inhibition of 11βHSD1;~~

~~with the proviso that said compound is not (1-methyl-1-pyrid-3-ylethyl)-(pyrid-3-yl)-ketone~~.

9. (Currently Amended) A compound ~~of formula (I) (as depicted in claim 1)~~ selected from:
[2-(4-chlorophenyl)-1-(pyrid-3-yl)ethyl]-(4-chlorophenyl)-ketone;
[2-(4-chlorophenyl)-1-(pyrazin-2-yl)ethyl]-(pyridin-3-yl)-ketone;
(α-methylamino-4-chlorobenzyl)-(4-chlorophenyl)-ketone;
(benzothiazol-2-yl)-(pyrrolidin-1-ylsulphonylmethyl)-ketone;
(thiazol-2-yl)-(pyrrolidin-1-ylsulphonylmethyl)-ketone;
[1-(morpholinosulphonyl)-1-methylethyl]-(4-fluorophenyl)-ketone;
(4-fluorophenyl)-[*N*-(cyclohexyl)-*N*-(isopropyl)sulphamoylmethyl]-ketone;
(4-fluorophenyl)-[*N*-(pyrid-2-yl)-*N*-(methyl)sulphamoylmethyl]-ketone;
(4-methylphenylsulphonylmethyl)-(4-cyanophenyl)-ketone;
(4-ethoxyphenoxymethyl)-(4-chlorophenyl)-ketone;
(4-chlorophenyl)-[3-(2,6-difluorobenzoylamino) propyl)]-ketone; and
(4-chlorophenyl)-[3-(4-methoxyphenylsulphonylamino)propyl)]-ketone;
or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

10. (Currently Amended) The method~~use of a compound~~ of ~~formula (I) (as depicted in~~ claim 1,[[)]] wherein the compound of formula (I) is selected from:
(α-methyl-α-hydroxy-4-chlorobenzyl)-(4-chlorophenyl)-ketone;
(morpholinosulphonylmethyl)-(4-fluorophenyl)-ketone;
(*N*-methyl-4-methylanilinosulphonylmethyl)-(4-chlorophenyl)-ketone; and
(*N*-methyl-4-chloroanilinomethyl)-(4-chlorophenyl)-ketone;
or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof[[;]]
~~in the manufacture of a medicament for use in the inhibition of 11βHSD1~~.

11. (Currently Amended) A compound of formula **(Ij)**:



(Ij)

wherein:

R^1 is selected from halo, nitro, cyano, hydroxy, amino, carboxy, carbamoyl, mercapto, sulphamoyl, C_{1-6}alkyl, C_{2-6}alkenyl, C_{2-6}alkynyl, C_{1-6}alkoxy, C_{1-6}alkanoyl, C_{1-6}alkanoyloxy, *N*-(C_{1-6}alkyl)amino, *N,N*-(C_{1-6}alkyl)$_2$amino, C_{1-6}alkanoylamino, *N*-(C_{1-6}alkyl)carbamoyl, *N,N*-(C_{1-6}alkyl)$_2$carbamoyl, C_{1-6}alkylS(O)$_a$ wherein a is 0 to 2, C_{1-6}alkoxycarbonyl, *N*-(C_{1-6}alkyl)sulphamoyl, *N,N*-(C_{1-6}alkyl)$_2$sulphamoyl, C_{1-6}alkylsulphonylamino, carbocyclyl, heterocyclyl, carbocyclylC_{0-6}alkylene-Y-, and heterocyclylC_{0-6}alkylene-Y-; or two R^1 groups on adjacent carbons may form an oxyC_{1-4}alkoxy group or a C_{3-5}alkylene group; wherein R^1 may be optionally substituted on carbon ~~by~~ with one or more R^7 groups ~~selected from R^7~~; and wherein if said heterocyclyl contains an -NH- moiety, that nitrogen may be optionally substituted by an R^8 group ~~selected from R^8~~;

n is 0-3; wherein the values of R^1 may be the same or different;

R^2 and **R^3** are independently selected from hydrogen, hydroxy, amino, cyano, C_{1-4}alkyl, C_{1-4}alkoxy, *N*-(C_{1-4}alkyl)amino, *N,N*-(C_{1-4}alkyl)$_2$amino, C_{1-4}alkylS(O)$_a$ wherein a is 0 to 2, C_{1-4}alkoxycarbonyl, C_{1-4}alkoxycarbonylamino, C_{1-4}alkanoyloxy, carbocyclyl, heterocyclyl, carbocyclylC_{1-4}alkyl, and heterocyclylC_{1-4}alkyl; or R^2 and R^3 together form oxo or a spiro attached heterocyclyl; wherein R^2 and R^3 may be independently optionally substituted on carbon ~~by~~ with one or more R^9 groups ~~selected from R^9~~; and wherein if said heterocyclyl contains an -NH- moiety, that nitrogen may be optionally substituted ~~by~~ with an R^{10} group ~~selected from R^{10}~~;

Ring B is a heterocyclyl linked to the sulphonyl of the compound of formula **(Ij)** via a nitrogen atom; wherein if said heterocyclyl contains an -NH- moiety, that nitrogen may be optionally substituted ~~by~~ with an R^{17} group ~~selected from R^{17}~~;

R^6 is a substituent on carbon and is selected from halo, nitro, cyano, hydroxy, amino, carboxy, carbamoyl, mercapto, sulphamoyl, trifluoromethyl, trifluoromethoxy, C_{1-4}alkyl, C_{2-4}alkenyl, C_{2-4}alkynyl, C_{1-4}alkoxy, C_{1-4}alkanoyl, C_{1-4}alkanoyloxy, *N*-(C_{1-4}alkyl)amino, *N,N*-(C_{1-4}alkyl)$_2$amino, C_{1-4}alkanoylamino, *N*-(C_{1-4}alkyl)carbamoyl, *N,N*-(C_{1-4}alkyl)$_2$carbamoyl, C_{1-4}alkylS(O)$_a$ wherein a is 0 to 2, C_{1-4}alkoxycarbonyl, *N*-(C_{1-4}alkyl)sulphamoyl, *N,N*-(C_{1-4}alkyl)$_2$sulphamoyl, C_{1-4}alkylsulphonylamino, carbocyclyl, heterocyclyl, carbocyclylC_{0-4}alkylene-Y-, and heterocyclylC_{0-4}alkylene-Y-; wherein R^6 may be optionally substituted on carbon ~~by~~ with one or more R^{18} groups ~~selected from R^{18}~~; and wherein if said heterocyclyl contains an -NH- moiety, that nitrogen may be optionally substituted ~~by~~ with an R^{19} group ~~selected from R^{19}~~;

m is 0-3; wherein the values of R^6 may be the same or different;

Y is $-S(O)_a-$, -O-, $-NR^{20}-$, -C(O)-, $-C(O)NR^{21}-$, $-NR^{22}C(O)-$, or $-SO_2NR^{23}-$; wherein a is 0 to 2;

$\mathbf{R^7}$, $\mathbf{R^9}$, and $\mathbf{R^{18}}$ are independently selected from halo, nitro, cyano, hydroxy, amino, carboxy, carbamoyl, mercapto, sulphamoyl, trifluoromethyl, trifluoromethoxy, C_{1-4}alkyl, C_{2-4}alkenyl, C_{2-4}alkynyl, C_{1-4}alkoxy, C_{1-4}alkanoyl, C_{1-4}alkanoyloxy, *N*-(C_{1-4}alkyl)amino, *N,N*-(C_{1-4}alkyl)$_2$amino, C_{1-4}alkanoylamino, *N*-(C_{1-4}alkyl)carbamoyl, *N,N*-(C_{1-4}alkyl)$_2$carbamoyl, C_{1-4}alkyl$S(O)_a$ wherein a is 0 to 2, C_{1-4}alkoxycarbonyl, *N*-(C_{1-4}alkyl)sulphamoyl, *N,N*-(C_{1-4}alkyl)$_2$sulphamoyl, C_{1-4}alkylsulphonylamino, carbocyclyl, and heterocyclyl; wherein R^7, R^9, and R^{18} may be independently optionally substituted on carbon ~~by~~ with one or more R^{26} groups;

$\mathbf{R^8}$, $\mathbf{R^{10}}$, $\mathbf{R^{17}}$, and $\mathbf{R^{19}}$ are independently selected from C_{1-4}alkyl, C_{1-4}alkanoyl, C_{1-4}alkylsulphonyl, C_{1-4}alkoxycarbonyl, carbamoyl, *N*-(C_{1-4}alkyl)carbamoyl, *N,N*-(C_{1-4}alkyl)carbamoyl, benzyl, benzyloxycarbonyl, benzoyl, carbocyclyl, heterocyclyl, and phenylsulphonyl; wherein R^8, R^{10}, R^{17}, and R^{19} may be independently optionally substituted on carbon ~~by~~ with one or more R^{27} groups;

$\mathbf{R^{20}}$, $\mathbf{R^{21}}$, $\mathbf{R^{22}}$, and $\mathbf{R^{23}}$ are independently selected from hydrogen, phenyl, C_{1-4}alkylsulphonyl, and C_{1-4}alkyl;

$\mathbf{R^{26}}$ and $\mathbf{R^{27}}$ are independently selected from selected from halo, nitro, cyano, hydroxy, trifluoromethoxy, trifluoromethyl, amino, carboxy, carbamoyl, mercapto, sulphamoyl, methyl, ethyl, methoxy, ethoxy, acetyl, acetoxy, methylamino, ethylamino, dimethylamino, diethylamino, *N*-methyl-*N*-ethylamino, acetylamino, *N*-methylcarbamoyl, *N*-ethylcarbamoyl, *N,N*-dimethylcarbamoyl, *N,N*-diethylcarbamoyl, *N*-methyl-*N*-ethylcarbamoyl, methylthio, ethylthio, methylsulphinyl, ethylsulphinyl, mesyl, ethylsulphonyl, methoxycarbonyl, ethoxycarbonyl, *N*-methylsulphamoyl, *N*-ethylsulphamoyl, *N,N*-dimethylsulphamoyl, *N,N*-diethylsulphamoyl, and ~~or~~ *N*-methyl-*N*-ethylsulphamoyl;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof;

with the proviso that said compound is not

(phenyl)-[α-(pyrrolidin-1-ylsulphonyl)benzyl]-ketone;

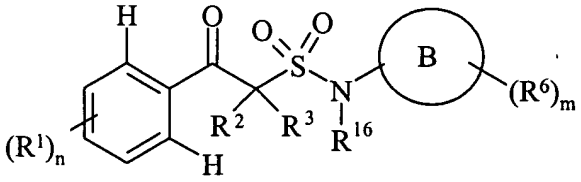
(phenyl)-[α-(morpholinosulphonyl)benzyl]-ketone;

(4-carbamoylphenyl)-[4-(5-chloropyridin-2-yloxy)piperidin-1-ylsulphonylmethyl]-ketone;

(4-carbamoylphenyl)-[4-(4-fluorophenyl)piperidin-1-ylsulphonylmethyl]-ketone;

(4-fluorophenyl)-[4-(5-chloropyridin-2-yloxy)piperidin-1-ylsulphonylmethyl]-ketone;
(phenyl)-[4-(5-chloropyridin-2-yloxy)piperidin-1-ylsulphonylmethyl]-ketone;
(4-chlorophenyl)-(piperazin-1-ylsulphonylmethyl)-ketone;
(4-chlorophenyl)-[4-(*t*-butoxycarbonyl)piperazin-1-ylsulphonylmethyl]-ketone;
(4-hydroxyphenyl)-(morpholinosulphonylmethyl)-ketone; or
(phenyl)-(1,2,3,4-tetrahydroisoquinolin-2-ylsulphonylmethyl)-ketone; ~~and with the proviso that~~ when R^2 and R^3 are hydrogen, m is 0, and Ring B is 4-methylpiperazin-1-yl, then $(R^1)_n$ is not hydrogen, 4-fluoro, 4-nitro, 3,4-dimethoxy, 4-methoxy, 4-*t*-butyl, 4-trifluoromethyl, or 4-chloro; and ~~with the proviso that~~
when R^2 and R^3 are hydrogen, m is 0, and Ring B is morpholino, then $(R^1)_n$ is not hydrogen, 4-dimethylamino, 4-nitro, 4-methoxy, 4-*t*-butyl, 4-trifluoromethyl, or 4-fluoro or 4-chloro.

12. (Currently Amended) A compound of formula **(Ik)**:



(Ik)

wherein:

R^1 is selected from halo, nitro, cyano, hydroxy, amino, carboxy, carbamoyl, mercapto, sulphamoyl, C_{1-6}alkyl, C_{2-6}alkenyl, C_{2-6}alkynyl, C_{1-6}alkoxy, C_{1-6}alkanoyl, C_{1-6}alkanoyloxy, *N*-(C_{1-6}alkyl)amino, *N,N*-(C_{1-6}alkyl)$_2$amino, C_{1-6}alkanoylamino, *N*-(C_{1-6}alkyl)carbamoyl, *N,N*-(C_{1-6}alkyl)$_2$carbamoyl, C_{1-6}alkylS(O)$_a$ wherein a is 0 to 2, C_{1-6}alkoxycarbonyl, *N*-(C_{1-6}alkyl)sulphamoyl, *N,N*-(C_{1-6}alkyl)$_2$sulphamoyl, C_{1-6}alkylsulphonylamino, carbocyclyl, heterocyclyl, carbocyclylC_{0-6}alkylene-Y-, and heterocyclylC_{0-6}alkylene-Y-; or
two R^1 groups on adjacent carbons may form an oxyC_{1-4}alkoxy group or a C_{3-5}alkylene group; wherein R^1 may be optionally substituted on carbon ~~by~~ with one or more R^7 groups ~~selected from R^7~~; and wherein if said heterocyclyl contains an -NH- moiety, that nitrogen may be optionally substituted ~~by~~ with an R^8 group ~~selected from R^8~~;

n is 0-3; wherein the values of R^1 may be the same or different;

R^2 and **R^3** are independently selected from hydrogen, hydroxy, amino, cyano, C_{1-4}alkyl, C_{1-4}alkoxy, *N*-(C_{1-4}alkyl)amino, *N,N*-(C_{1-4}alkyl)$_2$amino, C_{1-4}alkylS(O)$_a$ wherein a is 0 to 2,

C_{1-4}alkoxycarbonyl, C_{1-4}alkoxycarbonylamino, C_{1-4}alkanoyloxy, carbocyclyl, heterocyclyl, carbocyclylC_{1-4}alkyl, and heterocyclylC_{1-4}alkyl; or

R^2 and R^3 together form oxo or a spiro attached heterocyclyl; wherein R^2 and R^3 may be independently optionally substituted on carbon ~~by~~ with one or more R^9 groups ~~selected from R^9~~; and wherein if said heterocyclyl contains an -NH- moiety, that nitrogen may be optionally substituted ~~by~~ with an R^{10} group ~~selected from R^{10}~~;

Ring B is carbocyclyl or heterocyclyl; wherein if said heterocyclyl contains an -NH- moiety, that nitrogen may be optionally substituted ~~by~~ with an R^{17} group ~~selected from R^{17}~~;

R^6 is a substituent on carbon and is selected from halo, nitro, cyano, hydroxy, amino, carboxy, carbamoyl, mercapto, sulphamoyl, trifluoromethyl, trifluoromethoxy, C_{1-4}alkyl, C_{2-4}alkenyl, C_{2-4}alkynyl, C_{1-4}alkoxy, C_{1-4}alkanoyl, C_{1-4}alkanoyloxy, *N*-(C_{1-4}alkyl)amino, *N,N*-(C_{1-4}alkyl)$_2$amino, C_{1-4}alkanoylamino, *N*-(C_{1-4}alkyl)carbamoyl, *N,N*-(C_{1-4}alkyl)$_2$carbamoyl, C_{1-4}alkylS(O)$_a$ wherein a is 0 to 2, C_{1-4}alkoxycarbonyl, *N*-(C_{1-4}alkyl)sulphamoyl, *N,N*-(C_{1-4}alkyl)$_2$sulphamoyl, C_{1-4}alkylsulphonylamino, carbocyclyl, heterocyclyl, carbocyclylC_{0-4}alkylene-Y-, and heterocyclylC_{0-4}alkylene-Y-; wherein R^6 may be optionally substituted on carbon ~~by~~ with one or more R^{18} groups ~~selected from R^{18}~~; and wherein if said heterocyclyl contains an -NH- moiety, that nitrogen may be optionally substituted ~~by~~ with an R^{19} group ~~selected from R^{19}~~;

m is 0-3; wherein the values of R^6 may be the same or different;

Y is -S(O)$_a$-, -O-, -NR^{20}-, -C(O)-, -C(O)NR^{21}-, -NR^{22}C(O)-, or -SO$_2$NR^{23}-; wherein a is 0 to 2;

R^7, **R^9**, and **R^{18}** are independently selected from halo, nitro, cyano, hydroxy, amino, carboxy, carbamoyl, mercapto, sulphamoyl, trifluoromethyl, trifluoromethoxy, C_{1-4}alkyl, C_{2-4}alkenyl, C_{2-4}alkynyl, C_{1-4}alkoxy, C_{1-4}alkanoyl, C_{1-4}alkanoyloxy, *N*-(C_{1-4}alkyl)amino, *N,N*-(C_{1-4}alkyl)$_2$amino, C_{1-4}alkanoylamino, *N*-(C_{1-4}alkyl)carbamoyl, *N,N*-(C_{1-4}alkyl)$_2$carbamoyl, C_{1-4}alkylS(O)$_a$ wherein a is 0 to 2, C_{1-4}alkoxycarbonyl, *N*-(C_{1-4}alkyl)sulphamoyl, *N,N*-(C_{1-4}alkyl)$_2$sulphamoyl, C_{1-4}alkylsulphonylamino, carbocyclyl, and heterocyclyl; wherein R^7, R^9, and R^{18} may be independently optionally substituted on carbon ~~by~~ with one or more R^{26} groups;

R^8, **R^{10}**, **R^{17}**, and **R^{19}** are independently selected from C_{1-4}alkyl, C_{1-4}alkanoyl, C_{1-4}alkylsulphonyl, C_{1-4}alkoxycarbonyl, carbamoyl, *N*-(C_{1-4}alkyl)carbamoyl, *N,N*-(C_{1-4}alkyl)carbamoyl, benzyl, benzyloxycarbonyl, benzoyl, carbocyclyl, heterocyclyl, and

phenylsulphonyl; wherein R^8, R^{10}, R^{17}, and R^{19} may be independently optionally substituted on carbon ~~by~~ with one or more R^{27} groups;

$\mathbf{R^{16}}$, $\mathbf{R^{20}}$, $\mathbf{R^{21}}$, $\mathbf{R^{22}}$, and $\mathbf{R^{23}}$ are independently selected from hydrogen, phenyl, C_{1-4}alkylsulphonyl, and C_{1-4}alkyl;

$\mathbf{R^{26}}$ and $\mathbf{R^{27}}$ are independently selected from selected from halo, nitro, cyano, hydroxy, trifluoromethoxy, trifluoromethyl, amino, carboxy, carbamoyl, mercapto, sulphamoyl, methyl, ethyl, methoxy, ethoxy, acetyl, acetoxy, methylamino, ethylamino, dimethylamino, diethylamino, *N*-methyl-*N*-ethylamino, acetylamino, *N*-methylcarbamoyl, *N*-ethylcarbamoyl, *N,N*-dimethylcarbamoyl, *N,N*-diethylcarbamoyl, *N*-methyl-*N*-ethylcarbamoyl, methylthio, ethylthio, methylsulphinyl, ethylsulphinyl, mesyl, ethylsulphonyl, methoxycarbonyl, ethoxycarbonyl, *N*-methylsulphamoyl, *N*-ethylsulphamoyl, *N,N*-dimethylsulphamoyl, *N,N*-diethylsulphamoyl, and ~~or~~ *N*-methyl-*N*-ethylsulphamoyl;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof;

with the proviso that said compound is not

(phenyl)-(5-methylpyrazol-3-ylaminosulphonylmethyl)-ketone;

(phenyl)-[(2-methyl-6-methoxy-2,3-dihydrobenzofuran-4-yl)aminosulphonylmethyl]-ketone;

(phenyl)-(1-phenyl-3-methylpyrazol-5-ylaminosulphonylmethyl)-ketone;

(phenyl)-[1-(cyclohexyl-*N*-methylaminosulphonyl)ethyl]-ketone;

(phenyl)-[1-(phenyl-*N*-methylaminosulphonyl)ethyl]-ketone;

(phenyl)-(cyclohexylaminosulphonylmethyl)-ketone;

(phenyl)-[(2-phenyl-4-acetyl-5-methylimidazol-3-yl]-*N*-methylaminosulphonylmethyl]-ketone;

(phenyl)-[(2-phenyl-4-acetyl-5-methylimidazol-3-yl]aminosulphonylmethyl]-ketone;

(phenyl)-(2,4,5,6,7,8-hexahydrocycloheptapyrazol-3-ylaminosulphonylmethyl]-ketone;

(phenyl)-(4,5,6,7-tetrahydro-2H-indazol-3-ylaminosulphonylmethyl]-ketone;

(phenyl)-[(4-phenyl-5-methylpyrazol-3-yl)aminosulphonylmethyl]-ketone;

(phenyl)-[3-(1-carboxymethyl-3-methyl-4-oxo-1,2,3,4-tetrahydrophthalazin-2-yl)anilinosulphonylmethyl]-ketone;

(phenyl)-{3-[1-(methoxycarbonylmethyl)-3-methyl-4-oxo-1,2,3,4-tetrahydrophthalazin-2-yl]anilinosulphonylmethyl}-ketone; (phenyl)-(4-methylanilinosulphonylmethyl)-ketone;

(phenyl)-(2-benzoyl-4-chloroanilinosulphonylmethyl)-ketone;

(phenyl)-(2,3-dimethylanilinosulphonylmethyl)-ketone;

(phenyl)-(3,4-dimethylanilinosulphonylmethyl)-ketone;

(phenyl)-(3-methylanilinosulphonylmethyl)-ketone;
(phenyl)-(3-methoxyanilinosulphonylmethyl)-ketone;
(phenyl)-(anilinosulphonylmethyl)-ketone; (phenyl)-(2-acetylanilinosulphonylmethyl)-ketone; or
(phenyl)-[α-(*N*-ethylanilinosulphonyl)benzyl]-ketone.

13. (Currently Amended) A pharmaceutical composition which comprises a compound of ~~formula (I), (Ij) or (Ik), or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, as claimed in~~ any one of claims 9, 11 or 12, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, in association with a pharmaceutically[[-]] acceptable diluent or carrier.

14. (Currently Amended) A ~~compound of the formula (I), (Ij) or (Ik), or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, as claimed in~~method for inhibiting 11βHSD1, comprising administering to a warm-blooded animal, a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of any one of claims 9, 11, or 12~~, for use in a method of prophylactic or therapeutic treatment of a warm-blooded animal, such as man~~.

15-16. (Cancelled).

17. (Currently Amended) A method for the treatment of a metabolic syndrome, comprising inhibiting 11βHSD1~~The use of a compound~~ as claimed in ~~any one of claims~~ claim 1~~-8~~, or 10~~-or 16 wherein production of, or producing an, 11βHSD1 inhibitory effect refers to the treatment of metabolic syndrome~~.

18. (Currently Amended) A method for the treatment of a disease selected from~~The use of a compound as claimed in any one of claims 1-8, 10 or 16 wherein production of, or producing an, 11βHSD1 inhibitory effect refers to the treatment of~~ diabetes, obesity, hyperlipidaemia, hyperglycaemia, hyperinsulinemia, and ~~or~~ hypertension, comprising inhibiting 11βHSD1 as claimed in claim 1 or 10~~particularly diabetes and obesity~~.

19. (Currently Amended) A method for the treatment of a disease selected from~~The use of a compound as claimed in any one of claims 1-8, 10 or 16 wherein production of, or producing an, 11βHSD1 inhibitory effect refers to the treatment of~~ glaucoma, osteoporosis, tuberculosis,

dementia, cognitive disorders or depression, comprising inhibiting 11βHSD1 as claimed in claim 1 or 10.

20. (Cancelled).